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Princeton Review: UMM is among best in the Midwest

Summary:

(September 12, 2003)-For the second time in as many weeks, the University of Minnesota, Morris has received acclaim in a national publication. UMM is one of the best schools in the Midwest, says The Princeton Review's guide to The Best Midwestern Colleges.

The Best Midwestern Colleges, which showcases the top schools in 11 states, based its assessment on academic excellence within the region and an anonymous survey of UMM's students. Overall, the student survey indicated that UMM is well managed, classes are small, and faculty are good teachers.

"This is another encouraging example of the national recognition UMM is increasingly earning," said UMM Chancellor Sam Schuman. "Our students, faculty and staff have known for many years that we are at the top among national public liberal arts colleges. It is a very positive sign that major college rankings across America are affirming that high assessment."

"If you want to be in an amazing jazz program, come to this school," said students who were surveyed. Professor of music and jazz ensembles director Dr. James "Doc" Carlson, is lauded by one student who says Carlson used his connections in the jazz world facilitate a performance by trumpet and saxophone students with an opening act for B.B. King. This example typifies UMM's brand of personal attention, said the magazine.

Another student said: "Being a small school allows the students and professors to develop a relationship, and this helps students a lot as they are deciding what to do after college."

"Morris is a tough school," continued students in the survey. This means that "academics are the main focus here." While all undergraduates don't always agree with administrative decisions, the good news, says the report, is that students, faculty and staff alike can enjoy open dialogue with Chancellor Schuman during his open office hour every week.

Although a "rollicking" social life either on campus or in the Morris community wasn't highly rated by students, some suggest that a good imagination is an asset when attending UMM, and that the community offers "some great local eateries." In addition, students spoke positively about a warm and diverse cultural climate at UMM.

Class rank, secondary school record and standardized test scores are very important factors that the UMM Admissions staff considers about prospective students, said Princeton. Other factors include essays, extracurricular activities, minority status, volunteer work, and work experience.

The inside word, according to Princeton, is that UMM is best for applicants who are "distinctly excited about the opportunities the university offers." A variety of Financial Aid, scholarships and grants are offered, among them UMM

scholarships, state scholarships and grants, and private scholarships.

UMM's mission as an academically rigorous, public undergraduate liberal arts college is distinctive. Declared "a model liberal arts college" by The Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools in its recent reaccreditation report, UMM's goal is to be the best public liberal arts college in America. UMM was the only public college in the Midwest to be named one of the top three public liberal arts colleges in the nation by U.S. News & World Report in its 2004 rankings of America's Best Colleges.

Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.